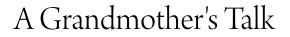
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Volume 2018	Antiala 2
Issue 1 2016-2017	Article 3

Pathways

2019



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Recommended Citation

Eshan, Jacarra (2019) "A Grandmother's Talk," *Pathways*: Vol. 2018 : Iss. 1, Article 3. Available at: https://digitalcommons.xula.edu/pathways_journal/vol2018/iss1/3

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Jacarra Eshan

A Grandmother's Talk

A grandmother talks to her granddaughter in order for the girl to further understand being worthy of honor and respect:

Baby, I'm going to tell you something very dear that my grandmother told me when I was your age. Listen up and listen well. When you walk out into the world of social constructs, judgments, and discrimination, you must strike down that ignorance with your poise and grace. When you experience hostility and unkindness, bless those around you with a smile. Show them that they cannot tear you down. You simply rise above. When you walk into a room, press your shoulders back and hold your head up high. Stand tall and sophisticated. Baby, when you walk, you strut with confidence and be the person God made you to be.

When you speak, speak eloquently and with power. Speak with a purpose. Speak when necessary. Speak passionately. Baby, there was a time when I could not express how I felt about myself or what was going on in the world. However, in today's society, take pride in all you do. Power is strength to hold your head up. Strength that gives you the confidence and regard for yourself, along with knowing yourself, know your worth and values. Have views on your life.

Baby, confidence is going to get you through many obstacles. If you don't have confidence within yourself, you will be easily influenced by what other people think of you. You need to know yourself. Be prideful of who you are, because people will try to knock you down. Be encouraged, no matter what is going on. No matter what anyone proclaims, you're worth more than diamonds, sweetheart. You're different and very unique. Never let anyone deter your selfworth, confidence, or self-worthiness. You may be shattered. However, you're not broken. When wounded, faith and time will certainly heal. When the load is heavy, know that you are strong and can do anything you put your mind to. You are powerful.

You are independent. Trust in yourself and believe that with faith you can survive anything. Do not conform to the society around you. Instead, make a difference and be a positive example.

Baby, I'm going to let you finish your work, but remember these words in particular. While climbing the ladder of success, never let the boys look under your dress. They'll say you're cute, they'll say you're fine, then nine months later they'll say 'it ain't mine.' Remember that you're a woman in control of everything you do. Know who you are, and whose you are and you'll always make it through.